

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Ware man assaulted by juveniles in park

Baseball coach and onlookers comfort him

By Paula Ouimette
and Eileen Kennedy
Staff Writers

WARE — When Josh Kusnierz arrived at Grenville Park Saturday afternoon to throw baseballs with his boys before leading a team practice, he did not expect he

would be comforting a young autistic man who was attacked by several youths, one of whom is allegedly 11-years-old. A 15-year-old boy has been charged in connection with the attack on Shiloh Skerritt, 26, who is a Ware resident.

"I was in the right time at the right place," Kusnierz said Tuesday in a phone interview. "There were also three other ladies who were there, and they stayed with Shiloh to be sure he was all right." He doesn't know their names, but he

wishes he did so he could make sure they're recognized.

Ware Police Department received a call reporting a physical altercation at Grenville Park, on Saturday, May 8, at approximately 3:30 p.m. The altercation occurred just outside of centerfield at the first baseball diamond, while baseball practice was taking place. Kusnierz witnessed the assault and intervened.

Skerritt was taking his daily walk alone through the well-pop-

ulated park, when he was assaulted by two minors, a 15-year-old male and an 11-year-old male. The minors involved in the assault were part of a larger group of 12 to 15 youth. Skerritt, who is autistic and has Type 1 diabetes, often takes walks through the park, sometimes more than once a day for regular exercise. He wears an ID card on him in case of an emergency.

"We look out for Shiloh, we all know him," Ware Police Chief Shawn Crevier said of the victim.

He said Skerritt had a difficult day after the incident but was recovering. Skerritt suffered a broken shoulder blade and incurred numerous bruises to his chest and back from being kicked and punched during the assault. Skerritt was taken by ambulance to Mary Lane Hospital for treatment of his injuries. "We wish him a speedy recovery on behalf of the entire police and fire departments," Crevier said.

Please see **ASSAULT**, page 9

Town administrator position created

Fire, police to get new vehicles

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARREN — Voters took up a total of 43 warrant articles at a Special Town Meeting and the Annual Town Meeting, which were held Tuesday back-to-back in the gym at Quaboag Regional Middle High School, with the help of Moderator Vincent McCaughey, who kept the meetings moving along.

During the ATM, voters unanimously approved the creation of a town administrator position, and followed that up by approving up to \$90,000 to fund the position with 62 voting in favor and 16 against it.

"This is a crucially needed position," said Selectman David Dufresne. "A good town adminis-

trator can write grants that can pay for their position."

He said three part-time selectmen, all of whom work, cannot respond quickly to the day-to-day issues of running a town, and decisions sometimes wait for the next selectmen's meeting.

One resident questioned what the selectmen would do once a town administrator was in place, but Dufresne said the administrator would report to selectmen and act as a liaison between the board and town departments.

"They would provide the day-to-day operations of the town," he said. "We're behind the times, it's time for us to take that step and make it happen." He said smaller towns in the general area, such as Rutland, already have town administrators.

Fire Chief Adam Lavoie told fellow voters that the creation of the position "was not a power grab by selectmen" but instead "a step



Warren Town Moderator Vincent McCaughey, standing, ran the Special and Annual Town Meetings Tuesday at Quaboag Regional Middle High School. Seated to the right are selectman Richard Eichacker, David Dufresne and Derick R. Veliz.

in the right direction for this community for a number of reasons." He said the person would be boots on the ground in providing direction for town departments.

Police Chief Gerald Millette also supported the position, saying that someone would be available every day to deal with issues.

Former selectman John Nason

III also supported the position. He did not run for re-election in

Please see **WARREN TM**, page 3

Ware singer/songwriter records new album

Signs with Dark Star Records

By Lauretta R.
St. George-Sorel
Correspondent

WARE — A local singer/songwriter is eagerly anticipating the release of her first major musical album, "Damaged Goods," for which she wrote the lyrics of all 10 songs on the album. Selections include "Lies in His Eyes," "Outta Control," and "When Do I Give In?"

Ware native Torie Jock, 20-years-old, has been pursuing a career in music for entire life, and she sees this recent accomplishment as a huge stepping-stone to recognition as a serious artist.

Jock's aspirations for a career in musical theater began when she started to take dance lessons at age 2, later studying voice, piano, acting and guitar. Throughout her teen years, she

New rail study celebrated by advocates

Would provide new area commuter line

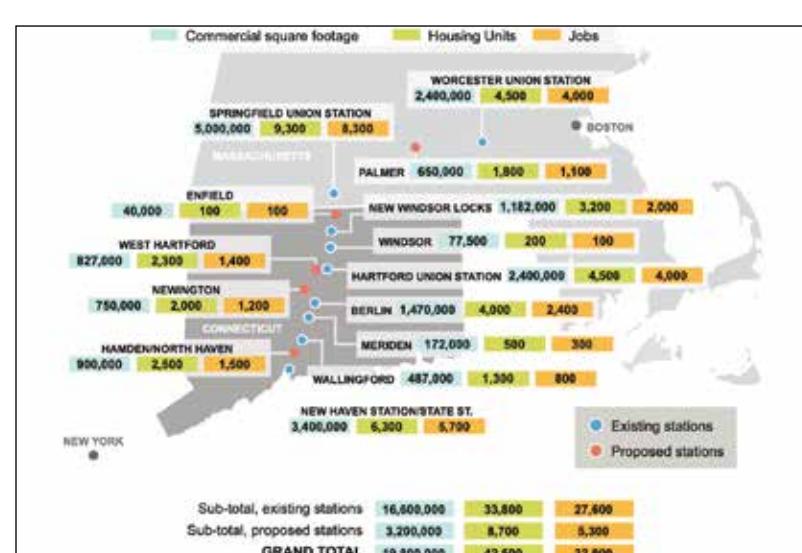
By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

REGION — Advocates of a new commuter rail line connecting Western Mass. to Boston are cheering the release of a new Capitol Region Council of Governments report backing all the main arguments for public investment in the project.

"The study is great for Palmer," Ben Hood, chairman of the East-West Rail Steering Committee said.

"The inland route between Boston and New York City is the key to unlocking the enormous economic benefits and transit-oriented development that would accompany restored passenger rail to Palmer. We are well-positioned at the northeast corner of Metro Hartford-Springfield, closest to Worcester and Boston. The study recognizes the work we've done to prepare for restored passenger rail."

Prepared by the international consulting firm AECOM, which specializes in infrastructure, the report not only celebrates modern mass transit as a tool for economic and social transformation, but accuses state and federal govern-



ments of negligence over a lack of progress. Although it hails the 2018 opening of the Hartford-Springfield line as a step in the right direction, the service just scratches the surface, the consultant said, and even that new line needs improvement, according to the study.

The work remaining to be done includes electrification, additional rolling stock, a replacement of the Connecticut River Bridge at Windsor Locks, double-tracking of key segments, five new or relocated stations, and upgrading the down-

town Hartford rail viaduct. These improvements, estimated to cost up to \$3 billion, would boost speed, reliability, and access," the study states.

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission also had input on the report.

The East-West Rail project in Massachusetts would connect Springfield to Worcester and Boston, and potentially westward

Please see **RAIL STUDY**, page 3

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Violence will not be tolerated

Over this past weekend, an alarming act of violence and cowardice toward an innocent disabled resident occurred in Grenville Park. Thankfully, the Police Department has identified the responsible parties, and has begun the process of bringing justice to the affected family.

The Parks Commission has banned those involved from the Parks' properties. To restore respect for people and the facilities, the Commission will close the basketball courts for 30 days. The Police Department and Parks Commission will increase patrols and the use of cameras to assure safety. There will be zero tolerance for these wrongful, hurtful acts. This response is a community responsibility. If you see something, say something.

This act is not what Ware is about. Grenville Park and all areas of the town are to be safe and open to all. Ware is a community where we care and watch out for everyone. We are all neighbors. We need to respect each other, no matter any differences. It is not acceptable in any terms in this town to be fearful, to feel unsafe, to be attacked. We as a town will do better. We have to. Treating citizens poorly - any and all citizens - will not be tolerated.

Be thankful tonight for a Police Department that acted quickly and professionally to address this terrible crime. Be concerned that this act happened. Be thoughtful about how we can together make the town better for all.

The town, through its leaders and staff, will work hard to continue to ensure that Ware is a safe, inclusive and caring community. Be safe.

Ware SelectBoard,
Ware Parks Commission,
Police Chief
Shawn Crevier,
Town Manager
Stuart Beckley

Budget presented

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

HARDWICK — The Hardwick Board of Selectmen held a joint meeting with the Finance Committee on Monday, May 10, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. The meeting was to further review the preliminary budget for fiscal 2022.

QRSD assessment
Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Dr. Sheila Muir presented the school budget for fiscal 2022. Hardwick's assessment is \$2,594,615.08.

Please see **BUDGET**, page 5



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Board hears Host Community Agreement concerns

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

HARDWICK – Ralph Rogers, owner of Adroit Manufacturing LLC, a proposed marijuana microbusiness to be located at 435 Lower Rd., Gilbertville, shared his concerns regarding his Host Community Agreement with the town of Hardwick at a Board of Selectmen's meeting Monday night.

Rogers submitted his HCA to the town late last year and is currently on a fourth revision of the agreement. He has been communicating back and forth with town counsel and feels there are "pretty close" to reaching an acceptable agreement. Rogers said one thing that concerns him about the revisions by town counsel is that they reflect those drafted for larger establishments in big cities. He said his HCA went from "five pages to 15 pages." He said, "it's not meant for a small town like Hardwick or a microbusiness."

Rogers said he would like to eliminate the optional Community Impact Fee, which a town can impose up to 3%, and instead just give 3% of his sales to the town. He said Community Impact Fees are being challenged in other communities as being unfair to the businesses. Towns also need to show the impact the marijuana business has had on them.

By dedicating 3% of his sales to the town, Rogers feels both parties would benefit more.

Another concern Rogers has with the HCA, is the \$5,000 payment for legal fees. "These are too much for a small business," he said. Rogers said if he were to negotiate this agreement, then decide to move to another town, then he would be willing to pay the \$5,000. Rogers assured the board, "I'm not going anywhere else, I want to be in Hardwick." Rogers said he wants his microbusiness to be in Hardwick, as he has a strong connection to the town and his grandmother taught at the elementary school.

Rogers also felt that indemnification provisions should not be included in the HCA. "I should not be responsible for frivolous lawsuits if I've done nothing wrong," Rogers said.

SelectBoard Chair Kelly Kemp suggested Rogers mark up the changes to the HCA revision and submit it to them for review. Kemp said it was important to keep this moving and said the town needed to look into handling microbusinesses and large cultivation businesses differently. Rogers said he would return the document by the end of the week. BOS Vice-Chair Julie Quink said they would share his concerns with town counsel.

Are You Old News?



If you recognize the people in this week's photo, sent the identifications and your full name to ekennedy@turley.com.

We can't believe no one identified last week's Are You Old News photo with the cute youngster who was obviously fishing, so we are going to extend identification by a week.

Each week the Ware River News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured.

Email your answers by Monday at noon to ekennedy@turley.com.



West Brookfield's asparagus chowder fundraiser

WEST BROOKFIELD – Even though the town's Asparagus and Flower Heritage Festival cannot happen again this year, the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, 36 North Main St is

still serving up their famous asparagus chowder. Chowder will be available Saturday, May 29, from 1 to 4 p.m., hot or chilled and Sunday, May 30, noon to 2 p.m., chilled, from the church kitchen.

Chowder will be sold by the quart for \$10 each. Call Nancy at 413-267-3863, and be sure to leave a message to reserve your quarts for pick up. Enter the driveway through the Church Street entrance.



Turley Publications staff photos by Paula Ouimette



SIDEWALKS TO BE SAFER

WARE – The crumbling sidewalk on the East Street bridge were identified by MassDOT as unsafe is, with the sidewalk pulling away from the bridge. MassDOT has set up a traffic singe with one-lane traffic until the work is completed, which could extend to December.

Live concerts resume at 'Stone Church'

GILBERTVILLE – Friends of the Stone Church will present two Sunday afternoon band concerts on the lawn: "Summer Swing" by Weir River Jazz, on Sunday, June 13 and "Swing into Summer" by the Weir River Concert Band, on Sunday, June 27. Both events are free, outdoors at the Stone Church, 283 Main Street (Rte. 32), Gilbertville from 2 to 4 p.m. The public is invited to bring lawn chairs or blankets. Refreshments will be available. The concerts will comply with public health guidelines in effect at the time of each concert.

Weir River Jazz, a 17-member offshoot of the Weir River Concert Band, is dedicated to the appreciation and performance of Big Band jazz and swing music and also performs more modern works. John Sacco, a Vietnam veteran and former public school music director, directs both groups, which rehearse weekly in their 'new home' at the Stone Church. Donna-Lee DePrille, a well-known vocalist from the Pioneer Valley, will perform with the jazz group on June 13.

Weir River Concert Band is a 30-plus member, multi-generational ensemble of flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets, French horns, tubas

and percussion. The ensemble plays music from movies, television favorites and traditional band music classics. It was formed in 2006, providing an opportunity for musicians of all ages from Ware and surrounding communities to bring people together through music.

Following the long pandemic shutdown, these free community concerts are the first in-person events at the Stone Church. "The concerts were conceived in a spirit of hope by the groups and are presented in a spirit of joy in bringing people together again," said Judy Edington, FOSC president.

Friends of the Stone Church (FOSC) is a nonprofit, community organization. Its mission is to preserve and protect the Gilbertville Stone Church and to facilitate its use by and service to the regional community. The vision is to use this historic landmark as a place of cultural and community enrichment. Donations are gratefully accepted by check to FOSC, P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031 or through FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org. This program is supported, in part, by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, through its Project Grants program.

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Hardwick Board of Selectmen notebook

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Board of Selectmen met on Monday, May 10, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting is set for Saturday, June 19, at 9 a.m., at the Hardwick Elementary School. The warrant will be open through May 28 for articles.

Formula Grant contract

BOS Chair Kelly Kemp said she talked to Barre Council on Aging Director Eileen Clarkson about Hardwick's Formula Grant contract. Hardwick receives approximately \$7,000 in Formula Grants, which can be used to reduce the town's assessment to the Barre Senior Center. Kemp said Clarkson is also looking to advertise for an outreach worker to reach out to seniors in town, many who have become shut-ins during the pandemic. The outreach worker would work nine to 10 hours a week. The board approved and signed the contract and the hiring of a part-time outreach worker.

Annual Dog Warrant

Town Clerk Ryan J. Witkos presented the Annual Dog Warrant. He said the warrant gives the town some leverage in getting dogs registered. There are 430 dogs licensed and tagged, and currently 250 dogs have not been registered. Witkos said a reason for the number of unregistered dogs could be a combination of the pandemic and getting appointments. The annual dog warrant was approved and accepted.

EMS update

Kemp said she reached out to Barre Town Administrator Jessica Sizer to check the status of their emergency medical services agreement draft, but had not heard back as of meeting time. BOS Vice-Chair Julie Quink said she will also reach out to Ware Town Manager Stuart Beckley about EMS provided by Ware.

Quink said she received an email from West Brookfield Rescue Squad to check the status of their proposal. She said she will let WBRS know the town is communicating with both Ware and Barre.

Administrative duties

Quink said she stops at the town offices every day, and Lori Hoffman has been keeping up with paying bills. Quink said she is also working with Paragus and checks in with them weekly. She said she is also working with MEMA to receive reimbursement for a COVID grant for which the town applied.

Kemp said there is a fair number of invoices in their bin again. She said they received something from Lenard Engineering for the New Braintree Road improvement project. Kemp said it needs a signature and if it is not time sensitive, she will put it on next meeting's agenda. Kemp said their contract with Comcast is also coming up.

Quink said she will work on preparing a job description for the town administrator position for them to review at their next meeting.

In-person meetings

The board discussed the possibility of returning to in-person meetings, but continuing to offer a virtual platform. The selectmen's meeting room would have limited capacity, but the board could hold meetings at the Town House or the elementary school, if needed.

advantage for the region," the report states.

Boost for Palmer

The town of Palmer, which would return to its roots as a commuter rail hub, figures prominently in the report.

"A historic industrial community known as 'the Town of Seven Railroads,' Palmer is still a rail crossroads, where the CSX and Central Vermont intersect in Depot Village. Both lines are busy freight carriers, and Amtrak's Lakeshore Limited passes through, but does not stop, on the CSX track. Union Station, an H. H. Richardson original building, lives on as a restaurant and landmark," the report says.

"While Depot Village is largely built out at the scale of a small town center, there is ample underutilized land available.

Palmer's Community Plan identifies Depot Village, as well as an expanse of undeveloped woodland along Route 32 just north of the village, as strategic development sites. Palmer's location in the regional mobility network amplifies its potential from a commercial/industrial as well as a residential standpoint. Depot Village adjoins the only Massachusetts Turnpike exit in a 24-mile stretch, and three regional highways, Routes 20, 32, and 181, intersect here. Palmer is the gateway to a 21-town area that includes the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Developable land is inexpensive."

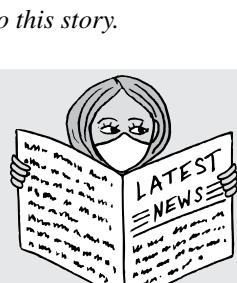
Echoing arguments local rail proponents have been making for years, the report seeks to hone the message that an East-West line benefits essentially everyone.

"Households, businesses, and governments are connected in a complex web of interdependent relationships based on producing, selling, purchasing, and taxing goods and services," it says.

"An initial change in one of these creates ripple effects through the others. Initial impacts tend to create revenues at other firms and employment for residents and associated income, as well as tax revenues to state and local governments referred to as fiscal impacts."

Reporter Jonah Snowden contributed to this story.

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HOUSEKEEPING STAFF NEEDED

Eagle Hill School, a nationally recognized boarding high school has two positions open in the Housekeeping Department. Job duties include cleaning our new, state of the art STEM Building as well as others when needed. The successful candidate must be reliable, work independently and in team environments. Hours will be second shift, Sunday-Thursday or Monday-Friday, as well as additional hours when for events when needed.

If interested, please email resume to Devon Jurczyk at djurczyk@eaglehill.school.

Sidewalk Sales return May 22, 23

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

WARE – Main Street will be "Ware It's At" next weekend, Saturday, May 22, and Sunday, May 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., for the Sidewalk Sales shopping event. Many of the small businesses on Main Street and around Ware will be teaming up to offer special sales and deals during this event.

"Ware It's At" is a group of local merchants that brainstorm ideas to help support small businesses in Ware, in conjunction with the Ware Business and Civic Association. Carol Zins, a driving force behind these "shop local" events, said last year's Sidewalk Sales gave many businesses their "best day of sales," during the pandemic.

"The community comes together to support merchants. People spent their money in town, and they need to continue that," Zins said. "With COVID-19, they're still trying to catch up. We really need to support them as much as we can to keep them here," she said of Ware businesses.

While many of the participating businesses are located in the Main

Street area, such as Nat Falk, Ware Package Store, Cluett's, Wilton's Children's Store, Needle Therapy Tattoo & Body Piercing, ArtWorks, ClayWorks, Talk of the Town, This and That 2 and more, small businesses all over Ware are joining in the Sidewalk Sales. New this year is Bird Hill Farm, located at 145 Church St., and All out RC at 2 Vernon St.

Lost & Found Mercantile, 126 West Main St., will also be holding their Open Air Market on Sunday, May 23, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vendors will have their wares setup outside for shoppers to peruse.

ArtWorks Gallerly will have their local art exhibition, "Reigning Cats & Dogs" open to the public beginning with an artists' reception on Saturday, May 22, from 3 to 7 p.m. Exhibit hours continue on Sunday, May 23, from noon to 5 p.m. Artists submitted works depicting "all creatures great and small," and range from young children to professional artists.

ClayWorks is featuring a sale on pottery, created right in their studio by local artists.

Charlie Lask, of Nat Falk, will have his sales racks ready for great

deals on quality men's clothing.

North Brookfield Savings Bank generously donated a lottery ticket basket. People can fill out a chance to win the basket at each participating business. The more businesses they visit, the more chances they have to win the basket. No purchase is necessary for this free drawing, and people must be 18 years or older to enter to win. Many businesses will also offer "in-house" drawings as well.

Free parking is available in municipal parking lots located on by Veteran's Park and on Pleasant Street, Bank Street, Main Street, Pulaski Street and the QVCDC parking lot on West Main Street (weekends only).

"These different events do help. The merchants are really thankful for the community support and we really need that to continue," Zins said. Ware It's At would like to thank the WBCA and North Brookfield Savings Bank for their contributions to this event. People should check with local stores about their individual hours and specials.

WARREN TM from page 1

this year's town election in part because of the time the elected position needs, and his inability to respond as quickly as he would have liked when he was at work.

Public safety

Voters also approved borrowing of \$350,000 for a new ambulance that will eventually replace the Fire Department's 2015 ambulance. The ambulance itself costs \$300,000, and the \$50,000 is for new stretchers and other equipment for the vehicle. It will take a year to have such an ambulance built, Lavoie said.

Also approved was the use of \$70,000 previously voted two ATMs ago to go toward a replacement of Engine 5, which is 1975 truck and currently out-of-service due to safety issues. Voters also approved another \$70,000, so Lavoie can start a search for a new truck. Originally it was planned to set aside three payments of \$70,000 to get a replacement truck, but Lavoie said he will try to find something with \$140,000. "We will see what we can do, see what is possible," he said.

A Fire Department command vehicle for \$55,000, will replace the existing 2010 Ford Explorer, which had to have a full engine replacement and still needs additional repairs. It will take six to seven months to get the new vehicle, he said.

During the STM, voters also approved turnout gear for two new firefighters at a cost of \$6,000. And \$47,096.85 was approved during the STM to be transferred from the capital stabilization fund to buy a Police Interceptor Hybrid. The money comes in part from a Green Communities grant, Millette said.

STM voters approved transferring \$122,000 from the Rutland Dispatch Assessment to the Radio Infrastructure Build Project, which will allow the town use the money to improve the communication system used by fire and police. The money was received through Rutland Dispatch from a grant for this purpose.

Highway Department

During the ATM, voters approved borrowing \$122,900 to buy a 2021 CAT 440 backhoe with various packages. The old one, which is a 2007 JCB 315CX backhoe, will be traded in and it is expected to bring \$10,000. The trade-in money will be applied to the new purchase.



Warren voters placing secret ballots in a box during Warren's Special Town Meeting. Votes involving more than \$25,000 are done by secret ballot.

Budget

Voters at the ATM also passed a budget of \$9.34 million, with essentially no questions or comment. It is an increase of \$345,070.08 overall from fiscal 2021, and an increase of \$362,297.13 over fiscal 2020.

"This is the first time I've ever seen that happen," said McCaughey, referring to no holds placed on any item and the swift passage of the budget.

The budget includes Quaboag Regional School District's fiscal 2022 money along with the assessment for Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School.

Zoning

A number of zoning changes proposed by the Planning Board were approved by voters, including a moratorium on wind energy projects. Also approved was the addition of automobile recycling facilities and auto auction facilities to the town's bylaw on junkyard or automobile graveyards, excluding them from all of the town's zoning districts.

The town's solar project zoning bylaws were also changed to include large solar energy facilities cannot be approved to be sited on more than one parcel and access to the facility must be obtained from the proposed facility's lot frontage. It also bans the use of solar tracking

systems that move panels to turn to the sun or solar trees, which use pole-mounted supports for solar panels creating a tree with multiple panels serving as leaves.

It also changed the category small solar energy facility to commercial solar energy facility, and banned them from rural, residential and village zoning districts. They can be sited, if approved, in commercial and the Major Development Overlay District.

Taxes

Although there were several residents against a .75% meal tax proposed by the Board of Assessors, the article passed with 46 for it and 30 against it. Several voters said it would put another burden on small business owners. Voters also approved a 3% local excise tax on retail marijuana sales. Both measures will be effective as of Jan. 1 of next year.

Appointed positions

Voters approved changing the number of Finance Committee positions from seven to five and Capital Planning Committee members from four to two.



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EDITORIAL

This violent act must not stand

Last Saturday afternoon a very disturbing act took place in Greenville Park. A young man, 26, who is autistic, was out for his daily walk in the park. He was attacked by juveniles, actually surrounded by a group of them, when two of them attacked him as he tried to move away from them.

He was knocked to the ground and kicked repeatedly; his shoulder blade was broken and he has a number of bruises from the attack.

Luckily, there were adults nearby: three women and a male baseball coach, Josh Kusnierz. Unfortunately we don't know the identity of the three women, but thankfully they were all there.

Make no mistake, this was no fight between teenage boys or roughhousing, this was a deliberate attack on a young man who is different from the juveniles who attacked him, period. To make it worse, if that's possible, one of the alleged attackers is 11-years-old.

The quick action of the women, Kusnierz and the Ware Police Department is to be admired and they should all be congratulated. They comforted Shiloh, the victim, until the police and his father could reach Greenville Park. The police were able to quickly identify who attacked him, and the 15-year-old was arrested and charged the same day, which was wonderful to see.

Police Chief Shawn Crevier is to be commended for beginning a program that registers those with autism and dementia so in the event of an emergency, if they are unable to communicate, police will be able to identify them and get in touch with their caregivers. Shiloh's family had registered him with the department, and when Kusnierz called them, they knew right away who he was.

Their actions have certainly helped, but it can't take away the fact that such an attack occurred. And unfortunately, this is allegedly not the first time such an attack has been made on Shiloh. In the past year, he was previously attacked and videos from the attack were put on social media. In fact, the group of boys who surrounded him Saturday had their cell phones out to record this latest attack.

Ware is so much better than this. It gets a bad rap, with some of its biggest detractors being longtime residents, but it is a town that comes together to support its own.

It cannot allow this act to stand without a fight. More eyes in the community on all children are needed, and residents must report activities that don't seem right or are just wrong. There has to be a willingness to step forward, to say "no" or "stop," or to call authorities when necessary.

People, all people, have the right to enjoy Greenville Park, to be on town streets and in other spaces without worrying about their safety. Shiloh has the right to take a daily walk in beautiful park that part of the town's history, as does anyone else.

As Kusnierz said, "We have to do better as a town. This is on the people of the town. Greenville Park is a place where families have grown up; it has so much history. It makes me sad that Greenville Park is no longer safe; it should be the epitome of the town. I'm there six days a week, I love that park."

If we have to volunteer so Shiloh has walking buddies every day to stay healthy, let's do it. If we have to tell other teenagers to stop certain behaviors or call the police when necessary, let's do it.

We hope part of the consequences for the juveniles responsible is having to make amends face-to-face to Shiloh and his family for the harm they committed.

Town officials said such behavior won't be tolerated and we are running their letter on the front page, which says so. They detail that the juveniles involved are now banned from Greenville Park, the town pool and Memorial Field, and the park's basketball courts will be closed for 30 days. Those are great first steps, but the town can't stop there.

It's also clear from Ware community Facebook pages that people are outraged by this attack; let's harness that outrage for a positive outcome.

Ware originally got the moniker "The town that can't be licked," because it responded to economic problems by banding together to buy a mill that was closing and finding new businesses to locate there.

Surely that spirit can be tapped to make sure all residents are safe and treated well.

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for the Ware River News, please email ekennedy@turley.com.

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Long awaited flowers for the wisteria

I was out shopping at one of the largest garden centers I have ever been to yesterday, and was tempted to buy a wisteria (along with a hundred other plants). My good friend is always talking about how pretty hers is and with an occasional picture sent my way, she is sure being modest. Her specimen is beyond pretty, more like gorgeous! I tried to remember back to the one we had growing at Old Sturbridge Village, long since gone now, but luckily I had written the following column, which gives some great advice for first-time wisteria owners, especially those who are waiting for theirs to bloom. Read on!

The wisteria was planted eight long years ago. Although the vines have overtaken the pergola beside which it was installed, there has never been a single flower...until this year! Finally, a handful of lavender-purple blossoms hang like bunches of grapes from the top of the structure. If I hadn't glanced up I probably would have missed this first effort entirely. I can only imagine how, in just a few more years, the show will be so breathtaking that everyone passing by will remark at its beauty.

There are two species of wisteria commonly grown by gardeners: Chinese wisteria (*W. sinensis*) and Japanese wisteria (*W. floribunda*). Their twining vines are vigorous with a capital "V," quite capable of growing 25 or more feet tall. Wisteria are valued mostly for their purple-toned or white flowers, which, as mentioned, hang in pendulous clusters in mid to late May, arriving just as the foliage

is unfurling. The flowers are fragrant, and pea-like, accounting for the fact that plant is a member of the pea family. In addition to it being vigorous and pretty when in flower, the wisteria is hardy and long-lived. If there are Victorian era homes in your town, no doubt one or more will still sport a wisteria trailing over the front porch. Examine an old specimen up close and you will notice a gnarled, twisted trunk several inches in diameter. Sometimes, with careful pruning, the vine can take on a self-supporting tree-like form.

Wisteria has the reputation of taking notoriously long to flower. Plants started from seed reportedly won't do so for 10 to 15 years! Those grown from cuttings, layers from the mother plant, or those that are grafted will bloom somewhat sooner, usually in seven to 10 seasons. To encourage early and dependable flowers, be sure to plant wisteria in full sun. Six hours of direct sunlight each day is necessary. Deep, fertile soil that is neutral to slightly acidic (pH 6-7) will grow the healthiest plants. Start off with a planting hole at least 24 to 36 inches in diameter and 18 to 24 inches deep, amending it with one-third its volume in compost, peat moss or well-rotted manure.

Wisteria also has the reputation of being able to "leap small buildings in a single bound," and topple the weaker ones to the ground! Be prepared by having a strong vertical support in place prior to planting the vine. Trellises, pergolas or arbors will all suffice.

Other, solid surfaces can be mounted with rows of copper wire for the vines to twine on. The copper won't rust and it will disappear among the plant material as it ages. Plant wisteria no deeper than it was growing in the pot from the nursery, unless it was grafted, then the graft union should be planted just under the surface of the soil. Water well after planting and throughout the first season of growth. A well-balanced fertilizer can be added annually.

Once the vine is well established, fertilize only if deficiencies are evident, and water only upon wilting. By discouraging vegetative growth, flower production will be encouraged. If numerous years have gone by and still there are no flowers, a heaping application of phosphorus in the form of superphosphate (0-20-0) may help. You can also try pruning back new growth severely in late spring or early summer. If that doesn't stimulate flowers the following season, try root pruning in late fall to "check" vegetative top growth. This is done by simply cutting into the soil with a spade four feet from the trunk to a depth of about 18 inches.

Sure, it may take awhile for wisteria to flower, but believe me, it is worth the wait!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

COMMENTS ON CONGRESS

Summing up democracy

By Lee H. Hamilton
Guest columnist

It's so easy, in the course of our day-to-day lives, to get caught up in the political preoccupations of the moment. What's the Senate going to do about the filibuster? How should infrastructure money be spent? Is the country going to come out of this year as badly divided as it started? These and many other questions matter a lot, but sometimes, it's helpful to step back and take stock of what we've learned over the course of our history. I've been thinking about this because I've been reading Jon Meacham's 2018 book, "The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels." In it, Meacham notes that we've been badly divided and knocked back on our heels in the past but have always managed to work our way through those difficulties. He cites a variety of writers and speakers, and a number of them have stuck with me because they're both reassuring and a challenge. They remind us that sustaining our democracy is hard work and that its vitality depends on each of us, not just to participate, but to make the effort to understand and talk to people we don't agree with, and to do our best to discern the facts on which all genuine progress relies. Here they are, with a couple I've added on my own that speak to the same issues:

"Do not expect to accomplish anything without an effort." Teddy Roosevelt said this in an 1883 speech called, "The Duties of American Citizenship."

"The first duty of an American citizen, then, is that he shall work in politics." This is Roosevelt again, in the same speech, making the point, in the language of the time, that being an American citizen means being willing to engage in the work of democracy.

"Speak up, show up and stand up." That's Georgia's Stacey Abrams laying out, in concise form, the basic challenges for anyone trying to affect the course of public life.

"Progress on this journey often comes in small increments." This is Meacham himself, with a reminder that progress comes slow and



hard.

"Nowhere is the rule of public opinion so complete as in America, or so direct." This was Englishman James Bryce, writing in *The American Commonwealth*, which appeared in 1888.

"People are responsible for the government they get." Harry Truman summed up our core responsibility: we have to choose our political leaders wisely.

"It is not only important, but mentally invigorating to discuss political matters with people whose opinions differ radically from one's own." Eleanor Roosevelt wrote this in a book published when she was 76, "You Learn by Living: Eleven Keys for a More Fulfilling Life."

"The enemy of America is not our many Muslim friends. It is not our many Arab friends. Our enemy is a radical network of terrorists and every government that supports them." I include this remark by George W. Bush, in a speech he gave to a joint session of Congress following the 9/11 attacks, because it's a cogent reminder that keeping our eye on the target matters in public policy.

"The people have often made mistakes, but given time and the facts, they will make the corrections." This was Truman again. I like his

confidence.

"America of the 21st century is, for all its shortcomings, freer and more accepting than it has ever been." Meacham makes it clear that our nation, despite its many stumbles, has moved toward progress, in no small part because the American people, as Truman suggests above, have set it on that course.

"It is in order that each one of you may have through this free government which we have enjoyed, an open field and a fair chance for your industry, enterprise and intelligence... The nation is worth fighting for, to secure such an inestimable jewel." Abraham Lincoln said this in 1864. His words remind us that safeguarding a freely chosen, democratically elected government that creates the conditions for each of us to succeed by dint of our efforts is what engaging in politics is all about.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

My Social Security is incorrect, what should I do?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: My sister and I have the same first and last names but are distinguished by our "middle" names. Our last name consists of two family names, which gives us both four, with only our middle names unique. We received two Social Security cards with the same name (middle name excluded), each with a unique number, but with our last name misspelled. So, my questions are:

• Which card is mine, and which is my sister's?

• Is it okay that our last name is misspelled?

I called Social Security and was told to make an appointment online, which I tried to do, but could not because it wouldn't accept my last name. I don't know what to do now and hope you can advise me. Signed: Confused Sister

Dear Confused Sister: You haven't shared

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

your age, but unless you're ready to apply for Social Security, you and your sister have time to correct your last name in your Social Security records. In any case, your Social Security Number is what is used to record your earnings for the purpose of future Social Security benefits, so you aren't losing anything where your earnings credits are concerned. You should, however, get your correct last name reflected in your Social Security records to be sure that your future benefits will be properly paid.

For Social Security purposes, only first names and last names (surnames) are considered your legal name. You can include a middle name if it will help distinguish you from

another, but your legal name for Social Security purposes will be your first and last name only. Thus, you should correct your Social Security profile to reflect your correct first and last name and include your unique middle name for personal purposes to distinguish you from your sister. For additional awareness, SS last names are limited to 13 characters. Also, it's not uncommon for many people to share the same first and last name (e.g., John Smith) in Social Security's records – it's the Social Security number associated with that name that counts.

Other factors might apply too, such as whether the Social Security cards and numbers you and your sister now have are new, or if either or both of you have been using those Social Security numbers for past employment purposes. In any case, those numbers have been assigned to you, so getting your profile

Please see **SOCIAL SECURITY**, page 6

WARE RIVER NEWS

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The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

2021 Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

BUDGET from page 1

Muir said grants helped cover a lot of their unexpected costs associated with the pandemic, including technology needed to make remote and hybrid learning possible. "We purchased a lot of technology," she said. "Each member town was generous with sharing their CARES Act funding," she said, to help secure the needed technology.

Muir said they are again, "building a budget for an unknown school year." She said they are doing their best to plan for a somewhat uncertain future. Muir said she imagines school will be closer to "normal," but the needs of the students will be unknown. They are proposing to eliminate some positions and add some new ones. The district is hoping to add an intervention program in the middle school, like the one on the elementary level. "It has been much needed for many years, but never makes it through the budget process," she said.

Muir said some of the new positions include two technology coaches. Right now, the district is using outside consultants to manage technological needs. They are also looking to add an additional Board Certified Behavior Analyst and behavior assistants. The district also wants to hire a social worker for the elementary schools. There is only one social worker for the entire district. "She can't address all of the needs of the families that are struggling," Dr. Muir said.

The district plans to move the existing preschool programs back to Hardwick and Ruggles Lane, and add more in Hubbardston and New Braintree, giving each member town their own preschool. Muir said they will keep the sixth grade at the middle school for an additional year as this will save them from needing to fill two classroom teacher positions. The district will also be looking to hire a high school computer teacher.

Muir said they are trying to create a sustainable budget, supplemented by pandemic relief funds, to eliminate a "funding cliff" when federal funding runs out.

Cheryl Duval, director of administrative services, said the overall budget saw an increase of 1.7% from last year. Hardwick's assessment is an increase of 4.35%. Duval said the increase for Hardwick came as a bit of a shock to School Committee members, and it is due to the 1.2% increase in enrollment in Hardwick.

Duval said Chapter 70 funding only increased by .34%, and transportation went up 18.72%. Charter school reimbursement decreased by 77.61%.

Kemp thanked Muir and Duval for their presentation. Quink said it was "helpful to see those numbers come down," referring to the assessment.

Highway Department budget

Highway Superintendent Martin Grysowka presented his department's budget for fiscal 2022. He said they took a lot of decreases for fiscal 2021, and fiscal 2022 is basically level funded from the department's fiscal 2020 budget. Grysowka said they are about \$61,000 over this year's budget on snow and ice expenses, and they had budgeted \$70,000. He said he is barely going to make ends meet with what he was budgeted last year.

SelectBoard Vice-Chair Julie Quink asked if he had two open positions on the highway department. Grysowka said he is short a laborer and a mower and he has to do something to fill those spots fast. The pay has been an issue with keeping existing employees and attracting new hires, he said. He and Lori Hoffman have spent many hours looking into this. He said the highway department also screens their own sand for snow and ice, saving them a considerable amount of money.

Quink asked if the proposed increases for two of the positions were contractual. Grysowka said they were not, but he is trying to keep the employees he has.

Gilbertville Public Library

Finance Committee Chair Cheryl Wolfe said she received the budget from the Gilbertville Public Library in the amount of \$24,266.

Smith Vocational school assessment

Hardwick has one student attending Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School at a cost of \$18,679. BOS Chair Kelly Kemp said they did not have transportation costs yet.

Barre Senior Center

Hardwick's assessment for combined services at the Barre Senior Center for fiscal 2022 is \$17,607.87.

Joint meeting

Kemp said they will need to speak with the Fire Department about their budget. The next joint meeting between the SelectBoard and the Finance Committee will be held on Tuesday, May 18, after the Personnel Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m.

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Scouts serve spuds to fuel high adventure

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

WARE – This past Saturday saw the long-awaited return of one of Ware's favorite Mother's Day weekend traditions, Boy Scout Troop 281's Potato Buffet at All Saints Church.

Last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the dinner was canceled. This annual fundraiser helps Scouts in the troop raise funds to support their adventures. This year was no different, as 12 members of Troop 281, Scouts and adult leaders, are preparing for another trek in the mountains of New Mexico at Philmont Scout Ranch in the summer of 2022. Fundraising for this once-in-a-lifetime trip usually takes a full year.

This year's potato buffet was take-out only, with the Scouts assisting customers through the one-way line. A record number of tickets to the dinner were pre-sold: 246, with 31 walk-ins. Each person received a massive baked potato, complete with toppings of their choosing such as broccoli, cheese, chili, bacon and sour cream. Topping off the meal was a slice of cake for dessert, generously donated by a local vendor. Many local businesses and residents donated to make this event a success for the Troop.



Scout volunteers work to put together potato buffet dinners.

"This trek will be the third time over the last six years that a crew from Ware has achieved the feat of a Philmont National High Adventure trek" said Scoutmaster Dan Flynn. "These trek Scouts heard the stories of the trail and adventures from the 2016 and 2019 Philmont crews, and are

eager for the same adventure." Philmont National High Adventure base is a 148,000 acre camp located at the base of the Sangre de Christo Mountains in Northern New Mexico, and has hosted over 20,000 Scouts BSA from around the world annually.

"Three of us going this year participated in the 2019 trek and will make up the crew youth leadership" said Crew Leader Grant Pelletier-Biggs. "We are going back experienced and can assist the new attendees with the trek." The nine-day long Philmont trek will mean each Scout will carry a backpack, each loaded with 40 to 50 pounds of gear, food and water and will hike an estimated 10 to 11 miles daily over a terrain that will cover 8,000 to 12,000-foot elevations.

"Each of these Scouts and adults will train almost daily over the prior 15 months to prepare for the trek" said Flynn. "I have been the crew advisor for the 2016, 2019 and 2022 crews, but my initial



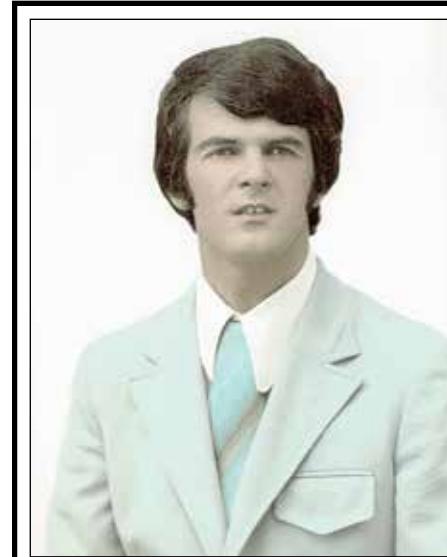
Turley Publications staff photos by Paula Ouimette
Liam Flynn, of Troop 281, was on hand to give diners their potato buffet dinners.

base of knowledge comes from when I attended Philmont as a 15-year-old Scout in 1980. The lessons learned on the trail never go away. I am very proud of all of these scouts and adults and know each will have a lifetime of memories from this challenge."

The Troop plans to hold potato buffet fundraisers in August and October and has already begun to add items to the potato topping menu.



Diner Tim Mara stops to talk at Troop 281's potato buffet dinner at All Saints Church in Ware.

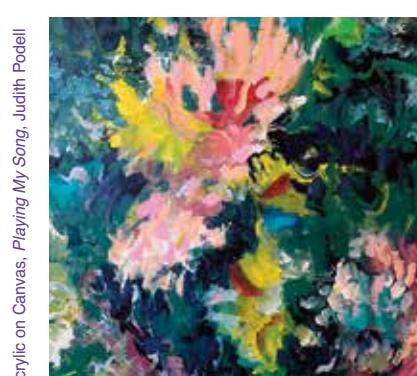


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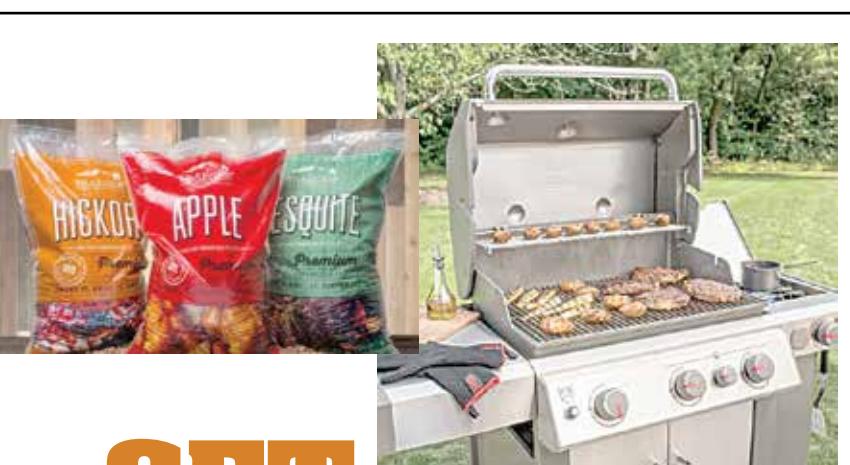
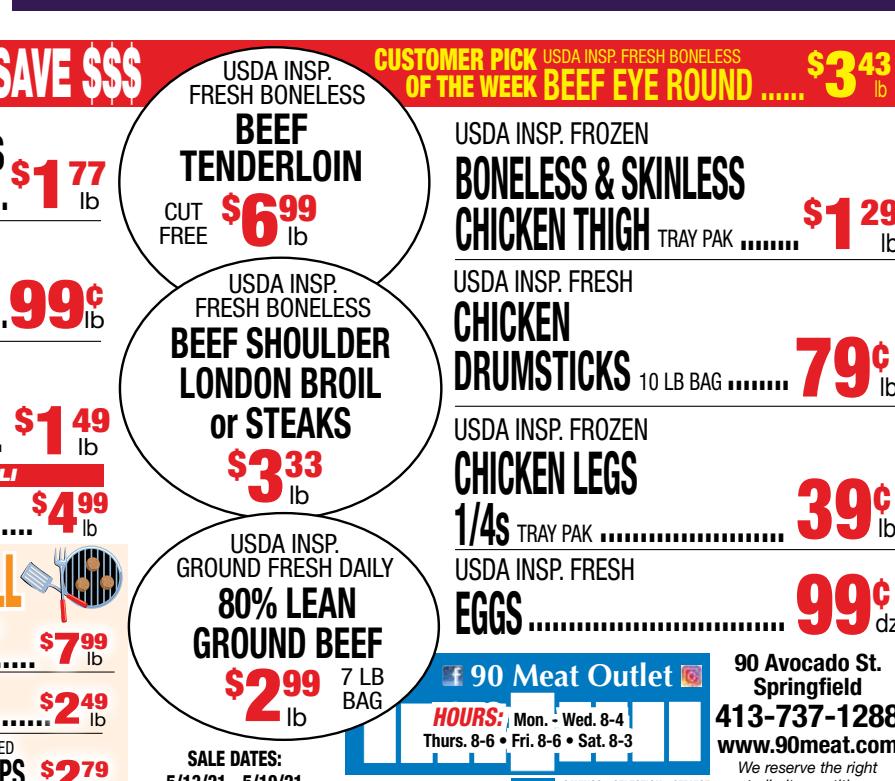
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The Centered Place offers student scholarship

WARREN – The Centered Place Yoga Studio of Warren will reward a deserving student of Quaboag Regional High School a scholarship of over \$1,000. The Centered Place aims to help support a student who wants to pursue a higher education so they can have a greater positive impact in the local community and world. The student will be selected based on financial need, the student's activity in the school and community, and their own stated intentions.

The Centered Place regularly donates to local charities and causes. Toward the end of 2020, a guidance counselor at Quaboag Regional, Eric Urban, asked The Centered Place if it would be willing to offer a scholarship to one of the seniors. "We jumped at the opportunity," recalls Phil Milgrom, co-director of the studio. "The way the political climate has been, and

with all the social unrest as well as the anxiety and tragedy from the pandemic, we wanted to help in any way we could."

He and Nancy Nowak, the other co-director and founder of The Centered Place, see this as an opportunity to make a difference. "Young people are our future. How this country ends up, and the whole planet by that matter, hinges mostly on the younger generation today" he said. "We will choose a student who is highly motivated and cares deeply about the future."

To become a candidate for the scholarship, students are required to fill out an application available at the school, provide three letters of recommendation and write an essay that answers the following questions:

What change the student would like to make in the world?

How would the student make

that change?

What obstacles might be encountered along the way?

What major obstacle has the student overcome in his or her life and how will this help that student succeed?

The Centered Place is contributing \$250 toward the scholarship while the rest is being raised by clients and friends of the studio. A fundraiser is ongoing. To contribute, you can send a check to The Centered Place, P.O. Box 1210, Warren MA 01083-1210 (write "For QRHS Scholarship" on the memo line).

QRHS serves students from Warren and many other towns in the area including West Brookfield, Ware, Palmer, Southbridge, Monson and New Braintree.

Anyone with questions may contact Milgrom at 413 436-7374.

Library has museum passes to a variety of locations

WARREN – The Warren Public Library has generously received funding from the Warren Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, for the following museum passes for 2021: Ecotarium for up to two adults and two children at half price; MA State Parks Pass free parking

Also, Old Sturbridge Village for up to four visitors at half price; Springfield Museums, buy one full-price admission and get one half off; USS Constitution is free admission for up to nine visitors.

New this year are Trustees Go Passes, which provide free or reduced parking and/or admission to all of the Trustees properties



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SOCIAL SECURITY

from page 4
to reflect your correct last name is important. It's also important that each of you separately use only one Social Security card/number (you use one; your sister the other).

To correct your name with Social Security, you should fill out and submit form SSA-5, which you can download/print at this link: <https://www.ssa.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf>. Note that the form is used to apply for a new card, get a replacement card or to change information for an existing Social Security number. The form includes complete instructions on how to fill

it out, and you can submit it via the U.S. Post Office to your local Social Security office, the mailing address for which you can find at www.ssa.gov/locator. Take note of the form's instructions for including additional documentation for identification purposes. I suggest that you and your sister both do this separately, each of you taking ownership of one of the Social Security numbers. When Social Security processes your name change, they will schedule an appointment to discuss any remaining questions they may have. They will notify you via U.S. mail of the date/time of the appointment and the next steps to be taken.

Since all Social Security offices are temporarily closed to public access due to the pandemic, you can do this transaction entirely over the phone if you wish, but you will need to first call for an appointment. If you choose the phone method over submitting form SSA-5, you should call 1-800-772-1213, and request an appointment to correct your name on Social Security's records. They will send you an appointment notice, at which you will be able to initiate the name change process (you'll still need to provide them with identification documents via the U.S. mail).

This article is intended for information purposes only and

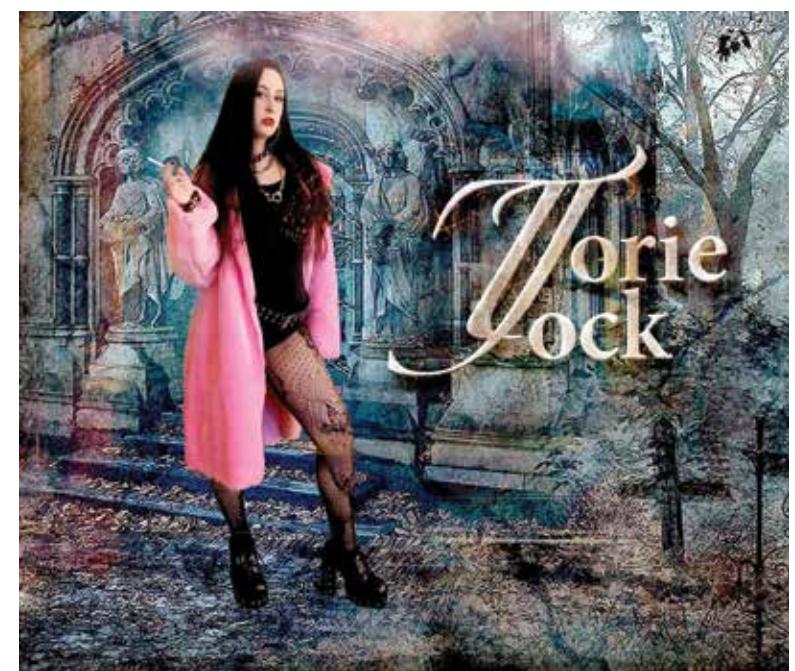
her 2006 album "Back to Black," is remembered for songs like "Rehab" and "Valerie."

Jock also admires the talent of Canadian singer/songwriter Alanis Morissette and the fabulous and fashionable outrageous performer, Cher. Both women represent the unorthodox performance style that Jock relates to.

In a recent interview, Jock said, "I don't think I actually found my 'sound' until this year." A self-described non-conformist, she added that, in many ways, she's always felt somewhat stifled, and that she wasn't allowed to be herself. The lyrics on the album, not to mention the cover, attest to the personal growth and self-confidence the young artist has attained.

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Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor at AMAC.



The album "Damaged Goods," by Torie Jock, will be released last summer or early fall.

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TORIE JOCK

from page 1
eagerly embraced every opportunity to perform, singing at local venues and dancing in the Ware Community Theater's summer production of "A Chorus Line," turning in a strong performance as a male dancer seeking a spot in the chorus line of a Broadway show.

At age 16, when Jock was a student at Quabbin Regional High School, she volunteered to work with students who were interested in forming a drama group. As a result, 30 students at the Ware Middle School Drama Club offered the school's first drama production, "Charlotte's Web," to enthusiastic audiences at two performances. Jock told the attendees that the play was dear to her heart because it was the play that she had first appeared in at the age of 9, making her theatrical debut.

In her late teens, Jock began to focus more on her music, performing in festivals throughout the region and gaining additional experience. She released a CD featuring songs that she wrote herself. Titled "The Journey," the CD explored issues that Jock felt were personally meaningful. Her big break, however, came last fall, when her appearance at a three-day fundraiser festival in Greenfield called "United We Stand" caught the attention of "Eve" and Eric Gynan, leading vocalist/guitarist of the popular band "Leaving Eden," who were also performing at the festival. They expressed interest in having Jock record with their five-member band at their recording studio, and ultimately encouraged her to write some new material for pos-

itive submission to a record-producing company. Elated at the opportunity, Jock wrote 10 new songs in a period of four days. Ultimately, she signed with Dark Star Records in association with Sony/Universal. The album will be released in late summer or early fall, although a single, "Outta Control," will be available sooner.

Jock's music style has been

greatly influenced by two of her

favorite performers: Joan Jett

and Amy Winehouse. American

singer and songwriter Jett is

best known for her work as the

frontwoman of her band, "Joan

Jett & the Blackouts."

The late Amy Winehouse, winner of five

Grammy Awards connected to

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Pioneers return to action

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW — When Maxi Viera first joined the Western Mass. Pioneers back in 2012, he knew very little about the history of the club and about historic Lusitano Stadium.

Viera, who's originally from Montevideo, Uruguay, is one of the Pioneers veteran players on this year's team. He likes to tell the younger players how special it is to wear a Pioneers uniform and what it means to play home matches at the only soccer specific stadium in New England.

"Playing soccer matches at this stadium is very special because of the history," Viera said. "It's also very important for us to have a successful season every year because we're representing both the club and this community."

The Pioneers, who finished in first place in the Northeast Division standings with an 11-0-3 mark, qualified for the USL League Two playoffs in 2019. They kicked off the 2021 campaign by posting a 3-0 shutout win over Fall River FC in a friendly match held under the bright lights at Lusitano Stadium, last Friday night.

"The good thing about tonight's match is that I had the opportunity to watch 20 players play prior to our first regular season match," said Pioneer's head coach Federico Molinari. "We do have a bunch of returning players and a couple of newcomers. We just want to be a competitive team again this year."

Because of the COVID-19 protocols, no spectators could attend last Friday's friendly match. The 2020 soccer season was also canceled due to the pandemic.

"It was very strange not playing any matches for the Pioneers last year, especially following a very successful 2019 season," Viera said. "We really want to perform



Chaney Nash Gibney gets the ball ready to fly.



Maxi Viera makes a dodge to keep the ball from being taken away.



Gabriel Ganzer makes his way up the field.



Patrick Agymang dribbles toward the sideline.

Please see **PIONEERS**, page XX

Kruczek picks up win at Star Speedway

WALPOLE, N.H. -- Bryan Kruczek passed the entire field -- at least twice -- en route to his first career Granite State Pro Stock Series win at Star Speedway on Saturday, May 8. Kruczek, who was fastest in time trials and won his heat race, started seventh -- but had to go to the rear on at least two different occasions. The Bobby Webber Racing driver didn't let that slow him down, as he took the Vynorus No. 19 into Victory Lane in the third GSPSS race of the season, the Hedges Excavating 100.

"I'm out of breath," Kruczek said, climbing from the car. "I had to pass a lot of cars out there. I can't thank all of my guys enough, my guys are second to none."

Kruczek's day included contact and a spin by Jacob Dore, which sent both to the rear, and contact and a spin with Evan Beaulieu, which sent both to the rear. He pit-

ted multiple times to the attention of his Bobby Webber Racing crew, but the car was right at the end. He passed Pole for the top spot with 24 laps to go -- however, a caution gave Pole last chance.

Pole edged out for the lead on the restart, crossing the line out front at lap 94 -- but slight contact a few laps later sent him backwards, and eventually spinning down the frontstretch, ending his day early. Kruczek held off a final charge from Josh King over the final laps to seal the victory.

King was second, followed by Dore, Belsito and Derek Gluchacki. Tyler Tomassi was sixth, while Gabe Brown, Beaulieu, O'Connell and Kevin Casper finished the top-10.

The Granite State Pro Stock Series returns to the track on Sunday, May 30, as part of a Memorial Day weekend special at Claremont Motorsports Park. For more information on the Granite State Pro Stock Series, visit gspss.com and follow the series on social media.



Submitted photos

Bryan Kruczek was the winner in the Granite State Pro Stock race last weekend.

The Finish:
Bryan Kruczek
Josh King
Jacob Dore
Angelo Belsito
Derek Gluchacki
Tyler Tomassi
Gabe Brown
Evan Beaulieu
Devin O'Connell
Kevin Casper
Bobby Cabral
Bill Hellwell
Joey Pole
Bobby Pelland
TJ Bleau
Mike Mitchell
Luke Hinkley

Spring season begins for Indians

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

WARE — The Ware High School spring sports season was delayed by just a day as the Indians had their first baseball game rained out at Monson High School.

But the Indians were right back in action with a tight game against Hampshire Regional, capturing a 2-1 win at home to open the season with a 1-0 record.

It was just a couple of years ago that Ware made yet another Division 4 playoff semifinal appearance, playing at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

It won't be at UMass, but the Indians are hoping to head to the first tournament being held in the region in more than a year later in June.

Keith Smith, who has had an excellent high school career in multiple sports, pitched a completed game victory. He allowed one run on three hits and had an impressive 13-strikeout performance. He did a great job with his control and kept Hampshire off the basepaths for the majority of the game.

Ware was able to get to the

Hampshire pitching with Tyler Orszulak and Nick Gambino nailing down a pair of RBI in order to give the Indians the lead.

With the geographic restriction getting relaxed by the PVIA, Ware was preparing to play Southwick earlier this week, and will next face St. Mary's.

Last Friday, boys volleyball got its first chance to get some action, and it was a very busy game as the Indians were able to come out on top against Athol 3-2.

The difference was a dominant fifth and deciding set. In that set, Ware was able to take an early lead and not look back to win 15-4.

The rest of the sets were decided by six or less points, and no team scored less than 19 points in a set for a very competitive match.

Ware won the first and third sets, 25-20, and 25-19. Ware was looking to finish out the match in the fourth set, but lost to Athol 25-21 to set up the final deciding set.

The Indians faced Southwick at home earlier in the week and were set to go on the road on Friday, May 14, to the High School of Science and Technology for a 4 p.m. start.

Premier Lacrosse League training camp to be held at Gillette

FOXBOROUGH — The Premier Lacrosse League (PLL) powered by Ticketmaster announced today it will be holding their 2021 Training Camp at Gillette Stadium from May 28 through June 3, 2021 leading up to their Week 1 matchups at Gillette Stadium.

"There's not a venue as closely connected to lacrosse, with world-class facilities and amenities like Gillette Stadium and One Patriot Place," says co-founder and CEO, Mike Rabil. "With our opening weekend of games slated for June 4th, our athletes will receive the best care while preparing for the start of the season on location."

During this time, PLL players will take part in official team

Please see **LACROSSE**, page XX

VALLEY WHEEL ACTION OPENS



Angels third baseman Mike Dean, of Wilbraham, fields a grounder.



Kevin Little, of Palmer, pitches in the opening game for the Angels at Suffield High School.



The Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League opened up play last week after the 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Twins pitcher Dan Benoit fires to the plate.



Justin Morin makes a throw to first.

SUFFIELD, Conn. — The Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League, like many other leagues in 2020, lost its season last year due to the pandemic. Players in the league participated in their first action in almost two years last Sunday, May 2. The league features six teams playing most of its games on Sunday afternoons. The league did have its traditional Saturday matinee for Mother's Day weekend this past week.

Photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

Second Chance performs 60,000 spay/neuter

SPRINGFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services reached a new milestone in their history of helping pets in need. The organization performed their 60,000th spay/neuter surgery earlier this month through the low-cost program offered at all Second Chance Community Veterinary Hospitals.

Second Chance's spay/neuter program was paused briefly at the beginning of the COVID outbreak to conserve critical supplies for emergency surgeries as both human and animal hospitals dealt with supply shortages.

Second Chance's low-cost spay/neuter program began in 2005 at the East Brookfield shelter to help stem pet homelessness in the surrounding community. Today, hundreds of pets come to the three nonprofit hospitals in Springfield, Worcester and North Brookfield each month for spay/neuter surgery in state-of-the-art surgical suites made possible by grants and generous donors.

Second Chance surgeons are specially trained to perform the highest-quality high-volume surgeries. Pets check in early morning and are discharged later the same day so they can recuperate in the comfort of their own homes with their owners.

Second Chance founder and CEO Sheryl Blancato is proud of the longstanding low-cost spay/neuter program and said, "Thanks to these surgeries, less pets are ending up in Massachusetts shelters, which means more pets in shelters are getting a second chance," she said.

Pet owners who would like to take advantage of this program for their pet can visit www.secondchanceanimals.org and fill out a S.P.O.T application under the Vet Care tab.

Tri-Parish church to hold plant sale and more, June 5 and 6

HARDWICK The Tri-Parish Community Church has started planning for its 15th annual plant and bake sale. The third annual tag and craft sale will coincide with this event, which will take place on the Hardwick Common, Saturday, June 5 and Sunday, June 6, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

This East Quabbin area springtime event will feature traditional, favorite and connoisseur perennials plus selected annuals, heirloom vegetable plants, and herbs. Inishowen Farms, of North Brookfield, Stillman's Farm, of New Braintree, Chicken Feather Farm, of New

Braintree, and private gardens will provide plants. Assorted home-baked desserts and breads will also be sold. The event is held rain or shine. Volunteers and attendees must wear masks and maintain six-foot distancing; hand sanitizer will be available.

Tri-Parish seeks vendors for the tag and craft sale on that date. Spaces will be offered for \$30 each. Applications may be obtained by contacting the church at triparishcc@gmail.com or Tri-Parish Community Church, P.O. Box 202, New Braintree, MA 01531. People should reserve a space early. All are welcome.

Last leaf, branches debris drop-off day

WARE – The town will be accepting leaves, branches and vegetative debris from Ware yard and property clean-ups at the Robbins Road site.

Residents will not be required to get a permit for this drop-off and disposal, but the debris must be from Ware properties. It must be dropped off by property owners or contractors who have been hired to clean Ware properties. Users should be prepared to provide identification that verifies that they are Ware citizens or working for Ware

citizens. The last date will be Saturday, May 15, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Leaves and yard waste only will be accepted. Absolutely no trash or other items will be accepted. The maximum size of branches is 12 inches in diameter, no exceptions. Residents are limited to two pickup-sized trailer loads per property address. Positive identification may be required.

All those dropping off debris must stay in their car and they must wear a mask.

Lions to host meatball grinder fundraiser

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Lions Club will hold a drive-thru/pickup Meatball Grinder sale on Saturday, May 22 from 12 to 5 p.m., on the grounds of the Belchertown United Church of Christ. The ticket is \$10 includes the sub, chips and bev-

erage, and there's no need to pre-order. As always, all proceeds from the club's fundraising events go to charity, and this year in particular there will be several graduating seniors receiving \$1,500 Lions Club scholarships to help continue their education.

"I was playing for a National Premiere Soccer League team in Maine and Federico found me," Mullen said. "I tried out for the team and I was a backup goalie my first year playing here. It was a step up for me and I learned a lot that season. Federico is an outstanding coach. I've also learned a lot from Jon Voight, who's our goalie coach."

Mullen became the Pioneers starter in 2019 and he was the USL League Two Golden Glove winner that season.

"It's a very special award to me, but I couldn't have done it without the help of my defense," he said. "We had a great defense, and it was a special season for us."

The Pioneers only returning defender is Federico Gutierrez.

Mullen has enjoyed playing home matches at Lusitano Stadium.

"It's awesome when all of the fans are here supporting us," Mullen said. "It pushes us to play a little bit harder because when ever you do lose a game at this stadium, the fans are disappointed. The atmosphere is always great following a victory."

Mullen was replaced by Robert Montanaro in the middle of the second half.

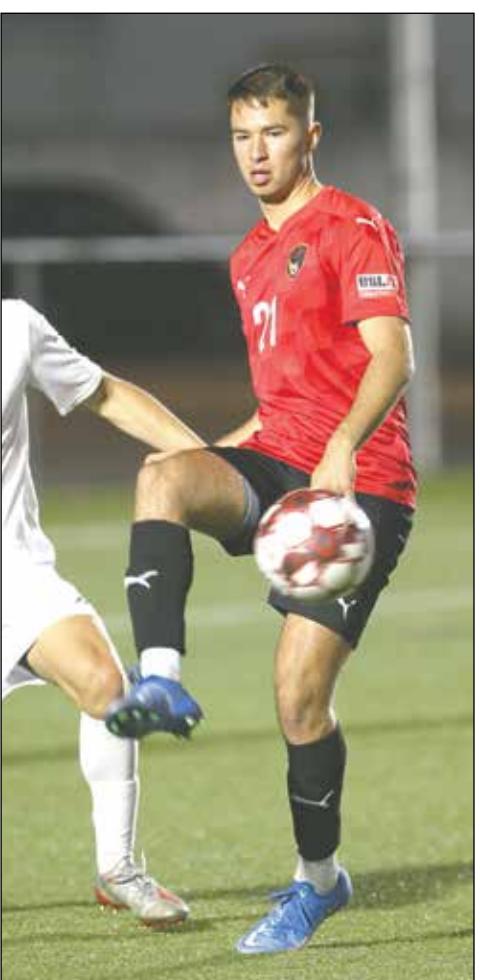
Another returning player is Connor Hicks, who lives in Monson.

"I was mainly a practice player in 2019, but I did get to play in a playoff game," said Hicks, a member of the AIC men's soccer team. "It was just an awesome experience for me."

When Hicks was younger, he attended a lot of the Pioneers games at the stadium.

"I remember coming to the Pioneers games when they played on a grass field," Hicks said. "It's now a turf field, but it's one of the best stadiums I've ever played soccer at. I really enjoy playing soccer for this team. I know that I'll have to work very hard at practice to get some playing time this year."

One of the Pioneers newcomers is Gabriel Ganzer, who is from Brazil and is



Connor Hicks, of Monson, plays for the Pioneers last Friday night.

living in Chicopee. He scored a goal and added an assist during the first half against Fall River.

Guillermo Deal, who's a returning player, and newcomer Andrew Barrowman scored the Pioneers other two goals.

PIONEERS from page xx

well this season and make the playoffs again."

What makes attending matches at Lusitano Stadium so special for the Pioneers faithful supporters is the atmosphere.

"It reminds me a lot of that soccer clubs that I played for back in Uruguay," Viera added. "The soccer fans here have a lot of passion for the sport. It's one of the reasons why we have so many international players on our team. When they come here and it feels like home to them, which is very special."

The Pioneers were scheduled to open the regular season with a road match against the Boston Bolts on Tuesday night. They're also slated to play another road match against FC Malaga City, who's a new team in the Northeast Division on Saturday night before hosting the Seacoast United Phantoms in the home opener on May 21.

The Pioneers officials are hoping a few fans will be allowed to attend the first home match of the regular season.

For more information about how to purchase tickets online please visit wmpioneers.com.

Another returning player this season is Blake Mullen, who's the Pioneers starting goalkeeper. He allowed a total of seven goals during the 2019 regular season.

"Whenever you start a soccer team, you normally begin at the back (goalkeeper) and work forward," said Viera, who's also the girls' varsity soccer coach at Ludlow High School. "Blake had an amazing season for us two years ago. It gives you a lot of confidence having a talented goalie like him back there. We're hoping he has another great season this year."

Mullen, of Manchester, Conn., played soccer at St. Joseph's College in Maine. That's where he first met Molinari.

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public notices

WARREN PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to MGL, Chapter 40A, Notice is hereby given that the Warren Planning Board acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, May 24, 2021 at 7:15 PM** on the application of Donna Skoczylas. The Hearing will be held via digital platform Zoom Meeting.

The Applicant, Donna Skoczylas is requesting a Special Permit No. 300 and Site Plan Approval No. 66 under Section 1.5 of the zoning by-laws to expand/alter a non-conforming structure in the village district located at 2282 Main Street (Map 20, Lot 38).

A complete copy of the application may be inspected in the Office of the Planning Board or the Town Clerk during normal business hours. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated. All interested parties are invited to attend via Zoom.

<https://join.zoom.us>
Meeting ID: 869 2706 4530

Passcode: 784772
Phone # 646-558-8656
Warren Planning Board
Derick R. Veliz, Chairman
05/06, 05/13/2021

OFFICIAL PUBLIC COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING TOWN OF WARE, MA

Please be advised notice is hereby given that the official public community outreach meeting for the marijuana cultivation establishment, Minuteman Farm LLC, is scheduled for **7:00 p.m., Friday, May 28, 2021**. The location of the meeting is also the location of the proposed establishment and is as follows:

Mill Yard, Lot Parce 1 G-1, 24 East Main St, Ware, Massachusetts, 01082. All are welcome to attend and encouraged to ask any questions regarding the project.

Robert J Barry
robertbarry@gmail.com
05/13, 05/20/2021

Community Outreach Meeting

B'Leaf Wellness Centre, Inc., a licensed cannabis retail store is relocating, to 24 W Main Street, Ware, the former site of Ware Cafe. We shall be hosting a Community Outreach Meeting at **6 p.m., on Friday, May 28, 2021** to share details of our plans. All abutters within 300 feet of our new location have been invited.

All are welcome. We will respect Covid-19 social distancing recommendations and require that all attendees wear a

face mask. Please direct any questions to: mark@greenglove.cc
05/13/2021

TOWN OF WARE

Department of
Public Works
Legal Notice
Invitation for Bids
FY 2022 Annual
Materials & Services
Contract: 03-21 HW

The Town of Ware will receive sealed bids for furnishing materials and services as needed for the yearly period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. The bids are for bituminous concrete resurfacing and related work, for various mixtures of bituminous concrete picked up at the plant and for furnishing and applying liquid asphalt. Specifications and Bid Forms are available at the Town of Ware, Town Manager's Office, 126 Main Street, Ware, Massachusetts 01082. Bids shall be submitted and addressed to the Town of Ware and marked "FY 2022 Annual Bid for Materials and Services". Bids will be received at the Town Manager's office until **11:00 A.M., June 4, 2021** at which time they will be publicly opened and read. The Town of Ware reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and call for new bids. Bids shall be evaluated based on responsiveness to the criteria, terms and conditions contained in this IFB and its attachments. Failures to follow the instructions, meet the criteria, or agree to the terms and conditions contained in this IFB may be cause for rejection of the bid as non-responsive. Contractors are required to comply with the Commonwealth of Mass. Department of Labor and Industries Prevailing Wage Rates in accordance with Mass. General Laws, Chapter 149, Sections 26 and 270. The Town of Ware is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Stuart Beckley
Town Manager
05/13/2021

LEGAL AD
Town of Hardwick Cemetery Commissioners are accepting bids from

Contractors for the mowing of Cemeteries and Common Area for FY/2022 beginning July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. The Scope of Services is available by contacting Paula Roberts – 413-813-8809, or e-mail cemetery.hardwick@gmail.com. Bids will be accepted until Monday, May 17, 2021 by 2:00 PM and shall be marked "Mowing of Cemeteries and Common Area Bid".

Bids may be mailed to Cemetery Commission, PO Box 575, Gilbertville, MA 01031 or hand delivered to Hardwick Municipal Building, 307 Main St., Gilbertville, MA 01031.
05/06, 05/13/2021

Town of Hardwick Conservation Commission

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act that a Public Meeting will be held for a **Request for Determination of Applicability** on **Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 6:30 PM** at the **Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville**. All interested parties are urged to attend.

Applicant: TEC Associates

Description of Work: Vegetation control on right-of-way for Mass Central Railroad (333 CMR 11.00)

Location: Mass Central Railroad line

Town: Hardwick

Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at <http://masspublicnotices.org>.
05/13/2021

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling).

Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands.

Thank you.

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3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

LACROSSE from page xx

practices, scrimmages, preseason workouts, film sessions, and educational workshops with their coaches ahead of their regular season debuts. Training Camp will be closed to the public, but tickets are still available for Opening Weekend at Ticketmaster.com.

"We look forward to hosting the PLL's Training Camp at Gillette Stadium for the first time this spring, in addition to hosting the league's Opening Weekend," said Kraft Group President-International Dan Kraft, who was a collegiate lacrosse goalie for Tufts University in the 1980s and served on the executive Board of the 2018 Federation of International Lacrosse's World Championships Host Committee.

"Hosting training camp is another important step in our strong relationship with the PLL and we cannot wait to welcome the nation's best lacrosse players, including former Patriot Chris Hogan, back to Gillette Stadium. While training camp will be closed to the public, we are excited to welcome fans to Gillette Stadium June 4 through June 6 to enjoy five riveting PLL matchups all

weekend long."

As part of PLL's Training Camp, pre-season exhibition games will be hosted at Veterans Memorial Stadium on June 1. More information on schedule and tickets for pre-season exhibition games forthcoming.

The PLL season will begin at Gillette Stadium for the second time, getting underway with a primetime matchup between Cannons LC and Redwoods LC under the lights on Friday, June 4. Saturday's slate includes a championship rematch between Whipsnakes LC and Chaos LC, followed by Archers LC taking on Atlas LC. On Sunday afternoon, Cannons LC will return to the field against Waterdogs LC, and the weekend will be capped off with a matchup between Chrome LC and Redwoods LC.

Ware Police Log

Monday, May 3

5:29 a.m. Fire, Report River Road – Services Rendered
8:21 a.m. Ambulance Request Vernon Street – Services Rendered
8:54 a.m. Alarm Burglar Main Street – Services Rendered
9:22 a.m. Trash Dumping Complaint Canal Street – Services Rendered
9:30 a.m. Ambulance Request Valley View – Services Rendered
11:01 a.m. Ambulance Request South Street – Services Rendered
11:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Church Street – Written Warning
12:16 p.m. Fire, Report Belchertown Road – Services Rendered
12:26 p.m. Ambulance Request Highland Street – Services Rendered
12:32 p.m. Ambulance Request Church Street – Services Rendered
1:11 p.m. Ambulance Request Church Street – Services Rendered
1:42 p.m. Annoying Phone Calls North Street – Services Rendered
2:11 p.m. Accident, Vehicle Palmer Road – Services Rendered
4:06 p.m. Ambulance Request Lower Cove Road – Referred to Other Agency
4:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation North Street – Written Warning
6:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation East Court – Citation Issued
6:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Street – Written Warning
6:46 p.m. Ambulance Request Otis Avenue – Referred to Other Agency
8:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Street – Written Warning
8:50 p.m. Larceny, Theft Report Belchertown Road – Services Rendered
8:57 p.m. Larceny, Theft Report North Street – Investigated, Report Filed
11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Street – Written Warning

Tuesday, May 4

4:25 a.m. Ambulance Request West Main Street – Referred to Other Agency
4:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Theft West Main Street – Services Rendered
5:45 a.m. Abandoned, 911 Call Old Gilbertville Road – No Police Services Necessary
5:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Main Street – Written Warning
6:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Warren Road – Written Warning
7:14 a.m. Accident (Hit and Run) Upper Church Street – Services Rendered
7:37 a.m. Ambulance Request Aspen Street – Referred to Other Agency
9:39 a.m. Accident, Vehicle Upper Church Street – Services Rendered
9:48 a.m. Ambulance Request Maple Street – Services Rendered
3:38 p.m. Accident, Vehicle Church Street – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000
11:23 p.m. Disturbance Pulaski Street – Investigated, Report Filed

Wednesday, May 5

12:26 a.m. Trespassing Complaint West Main Street – Area Searched Negative
5:17 a.m. Accident, Vehicle Cummings Road – Services Rendered
9:36 a.m. Larceny, Theft Report Walnut Street – Area Searched Negative
9:49 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Main Street – Written Warning
10:28 a.m. Trespassing Complaint Highland Village – Services Rendered
10:36 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation East Street – Written Warning
10:54 a.m. Harassment Complaint North Street – Referred to Other Agency
12:20 p.m. Ambulance Request Valley View – Services Rendered
1:36 p.m. Ambulance Request North Street – Services Rendered
1:53 p.m. Burglary/Breaking and Entering Pleasant Street – Investigation Pending
4:17 p.m. Investigation Babcock Tavern Road – Investigated, Report Filed
4:48 p.m. Ambulance Request Belchertown Road – Referred to Other Agency
7:40 p.m. Ambulance Request Mattson Boulevard – Referred to Other Agency
9:01 p.m. Investigation Palmer Road – Investigated, Report Filed
9:36 p.m. Ambulance Request Palmer Road – Referred to Other Agency

Thursday, May 6

5:20 a.m. Ambulance Request Osborne Road – Services Rendered
7:17 a.m. Abandoned, 911 Call Old Poor Farm Road – Services Rendered
7:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Belchertown Road – Citation Issued
9:45 a.m. Ambulance Request Anna Street – Services Rendered
10:08 a.m. Ambulance Request West Street – Services Rendered
11:42 a.m. Fraud West Street – Services Rendered
1:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Knox Street – Written Warning
4:12 p.m. Ambulance Request Monson Turnpike Road – Referred to Other Agency
5:57 p.m. Assault Cherry Street – Investigation Pending

Friday, May 7

12:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Street – Written Warning
12:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Street – Written Warning
1:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Street – Citation Issued
2:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation North Street – Arrest on Warrant
6:45 a.m. Ambulance Request Hillside Village – Referred to Other Agency
10 a.m. Trash Dumping Complaint West Street – Services Rendered
11:45 a.m. Arrest Old Belchertown Road – Arrest, Misdemeanor Charge
12:10 p.m. Ambulance Request Walker Road – Services Rendered

2:53 p.m. Ambulance Request Vigeant Street – Services Rendered
5:50 p.m. Ambulance Request High Street – Referred to Other Agency
6:24 p.m. Ambulance Request Valley View – Referred to Other Agency
6:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation East Street – Written Warning
8:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Street – Written Warning
10:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Street – Arrest, Misdemeanor Charge

Saturday, May 8

12:08 a.m. Accident, Vehicle West Street – Arrest, Misdemeanor Charge
7:58 a.m. Ambulance Request Willow Street – Services Rendered
9:24 a.m. Ambulance Request Highland Village – Referred to Other Agency
10:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Church Street – Written Warning
12:11 p.m. Officer Wanted West Street – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000
12:27 p.m. Officer Wanted Cummings Road – Investigated, Report Filed
2:07 p.m. Disturbance Otis Avenue – Investigated, Report Filed
2:44 p.m. Erratic Operator Complaint Palmer Road – Arrest, Felony Charge
3:20 p.m. Assault Church Street – Investigated, Report Filed
6:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Monson Turnpike Road – Written Warning
6:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Monson Turnpike Road – Citation Issued
8:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Main Street – Citation Issued
9 p.m. Alarm Burglar West Street – Services Rendered

Sunday, May 9

2:46 a.m. Ambulance Request Osborne Road – Referred to Other Agency

5:11 a.m. Ambulance Request South Street – Services Rendered
11:41 a.m. Accident, Vehicle West Street – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000
12:55 p.m. Ambulance Request Palmer Road – Referred to Other Agency
2:57 p.m. Assault Church Street – Services Rendered
4:29 p.m. Hang-up, 911 Call South Street – Services Rendered
5:50 p.m. Ambulance Request Briar Circle – Referred to Other Agency

6:45 p.m. Ambulance Request North Street – No Police Service Necessary
7:31 p.m. Larceny, Theft Report North Street – Investigated, Report Filed
8:41 p.m. Investigation Cottage Street – Investigated, Report Filed
11:18 p.m. Investigation Cottage Street – Investigated, Report Filed

Monday, May 10

9:24 a.m. Larceny, Theft Report South Street – Investigation Pending

Warren Police Log

Sunday, May 2

11:34 a.m. Diabetic Shamrock Drive – Referred to Other Agency
11:58 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Citation Issued
12:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Citation Issued
1:08 p.m. Obstructed Airway, Infant Southbridge Road – Refused Services
2:22 p.m. Propane Incident Residential South Street – Services Rendered
3:10 p.m. Larceny/Theft Bacon Street – Property Returned
Summons: Anthony R. Harnois, 21, Ware
Number Plate, Take
3:38 p.m. Animal, Bite Reed Street – Officer Spoke to Party
8:45 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Spring Street – Officer Spoke to Party

Monday, May 3

7:07 a.m. Animal, Deceased Maple Street – Information Given

8:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Written Warning
9:52 a.m. Fraud/Forgery Main Street – Officer Spoke to Party
10:25 a.m. Sick/Unknown Bridge Street – Transported to Hospital
1:38 p.m. Property Damage Bemis Road – Officer Spoke to Party
2:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Old West Brookfield Road – Citation Issued
2:47 p.m. Sick/Unknown Main Street – No Fire Service Necessary
3:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
4:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Citation Issued
8:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Written Warning
8:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Written Warning
9:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Written Warning
9:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop

Main Street – Written Warning
9:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Written Warning

9:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Written Warning

Tuesday, May 4

6:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
7:16 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/Fire Old West Brookfield Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal
11:01 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problems Constitution Avenue – Transported to Hospital
5 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
Summons: Timothy J. Patenaude, 27, Monson
License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With
5:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Boston Post Road – Written Warning

Wednesday, May 5

11:29 p.m. Bleeding (Non-traumatic) Reynolds Road – Transported to Hospital

12:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Citation Issued
1:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Boston Post Road – Written Warning

2:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning
5:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning

10:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road Extension – Citation Issued

11:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Written Warning
12:10 p.m. Animal Complaint Reed Street – Animal Returned to Owner

1:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Old West Brookfield Road – Citation Issued
1:32 p.m. Bleeding (Non-traumatic) School House Drive – Transported to Hospital
2:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop

Editor's Note: People in this country are presumed to be innocent until found guilty in a court of law. Police provide us with the information you read on this page as public record information. If you or any suspect listed here is found not guilty or has charges dropped or reduced, we will gladly print that information as a follow-up upon being presented with documented proof of the court's final disposition.

South Street – Citation Issued
5:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Citation Issued
7:30 p.m. Larceny/Theft Bacon Street – Officer Spoke to Party

9:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Citation Issued
12:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Written Warning

4:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Boston Post Road – Citation Issued
5:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
6 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Written Warning

Saturday, May 8

1 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop East Road – Written Warning
8:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Written Warning
9:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Written Warning
10:09 a.m. Threats Carpenter Street – Officer Spoke to Party
11:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/Fire Main Street – Vehicle Towed
2:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
5:19 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Old West Brookfield Road – Report Filed

Hardwick Police Log

During the weeks of May 3-10, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 71 building/property checks, 32 directed/area patrols, nine radar assignments, nine traffic controls, nine emergency 911 calls, eight motor vehicle stops, one trespass, two scams, one fire, illegal burn/permit, one vandalism, one complaint and four animal calls in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, May 3

11:41 a.m. 911 – Misdial Old Petersham Road – Officer Handled
4:17 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Vehicle Towed

Tuesday, May 4

3:05 p.m. Phone – Scam River Run – Report Taken

Wednesday, May 5

1:47 p.m. Phone – Complaint To

Bridge Court – Transferred Call to C7

Thursday, May 6

5:47 p.m. 911 – Misdial Old Petersham Road – Officer Handled
8:22 p.m. Initiated – Vandalism Greenwich Road – Report Taken

Friday, May 7

10:42 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Church Street – Transported to Hospital
12:30 p.m. Phone – Scam Church Lane – Spoken To
2:27 p.m. 911 – Threat Hardwick Road – Spoken To
6:04 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Citation Issued
7:40 p.m. Phone – Medical Emergency Prospect Street – Transported to Hospital

Saturday, May 8

10:42 a.m. Cellular – 911 Misdial Hardwick Road – Spoken To

2:03 p.m. Phone – Fire, Illegal Burn/Permit Barre Road – Checked/Secured

4:02 p.m. 911 – Hang-up Call High Street – Services Rendered
5:59 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Citation Issued

6:08 p.m. 911 – Assault Church Street – Summons Issued

8 a.m. 911 – Animal Call Main Street – Removed Hazard
1:25 p.m. Phone – Disturbance Hardwick Road – Report Taken
2:50 p.m. 911 – Hang-up Call Greenwich Road – Spoken To
10:34 p.m. Phone – Stolen Motor Vehicle Turkey Street – Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Monday, April 10

3:04 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Greenwich Road – Transported to Hospital

Shiloh allowed things to happen,” he said. “I told his dad, you are the key.”

Kusnierz said he still trying to process what happened Saturday. “Sick and disturbing does not even describe it,” he said. “It was just plain savagery, I still can’t understand it.” He said when someone told him an 11-year-old was involved, he couldn’t believe it.

“I have had people say to me, ‘why was he out there by himself?’ and I say, ‘why wasn’t he left alone?’” Kusnierz said.

This is not the first time Shiloh has been attacked, with a video of such an attack surfacing on social media last year, according to the family, Kusnierz said.

He said his sons are still processing the event, with his oldest son wanting to know why it happened. “I told him I don’t know,” Kusnierz said.

“We have to do better as a town,” Kusnierz said. “This is on the people of the town. Grenville Park is a place where families have grown up; it has so much history. It makes me sad that Grenville Park is no longer safe; it should be the

position. The attack took place past center field, but a kick that connected with Shiloh could be heard at the pitcher’s mound, he said. Shiloh put up his arm to ward off kicks to his face. Some boys had their cell phones up taking photos or videos, he said.

At that point, he took off for Shiloh, and the group scattered, running toward another ball field and the woods, he said. Kusnierz checked on Shiloh and called the police. When he called, he told police that the victim’s name was Shiloh, and it was clear he had a disability. The police told him they had issued him an identification card and he was in the sys-


Courtesy photo
Baseball coach Josh Kusnierz rushed to the aid of Shiloh Skerritt, 26, who was attacked by juvenile boys in Grenville Park Sunday. He and three women rushed to be with Skerritt as he was being attacked.

tem so police could call his family if he was unable to communicate. The Police Department recently began a program for people with autism and dementia so in emergency situations they can be identified in an emergency. They had his father’s contact information, let him know what had happened and he went straight to Grenville Park.

Keeping victim safe

Kusnierz and the three women stayed

with Shiloh, talking to him until the Ware Police Department, the State Police and an ambulance responded to the scene, Kusnierz said. “When his dad showed up,

ASSAULT from page 1

Police id attackers

Officer Derek Ames and Officer Jacob Crevier, both recently hired to the department, responded to the scene and were able to obtain the names of the juveniles that witnessed the assault, which led to the apprehension of the two suspects. “The officers did an exceptional job,” Crevier said.

The 15-year-old male was arrested Sunday night at 11:50 p.m. and charged with assault and battery on an intellectually disabled person and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, to wit, shot foot. The 15-year-old is currently in a diversion program due to a previous incident.

The 11-year-old cannot be charged or arrested due to his age, but officers met with his parents and school officials regarding the assault. Crevier said a 51A has been filed with the Department of Children and Family Services on the families of both juveniles. The Parks and Recreation Department has issued a no-trespass order against both juveniles,

epitome of the town. I’m there six days a week, I love that park.”

“Anne Frank, who faced every type of problem, has a long quote but it boils down to ‘I still believe, in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart,’ he said. “And I do too. We’re in a culture where things trend, and I wish I knew how to make being a good person a trend.”

“My heart breaks for Shiloh, and I wish this situation didn’t happen,” Kusnierz said. “But we are here, and I am going to advocate for him. We can’t allow this to happen again. And I hope any sentence isn’t light; it should be as ruthlessly aggressive as the attack Shiloh was dealt.”

2020 WATER QUALITY REPORT

WARE WATER DEPARTMENT • 4 1/2 Church Street, Ware, Massachusetts 01082 (413) 967-9620 • dpwwater@townofware.com
PWS ID# 1309000

The Ware Water Department is pleased to present to you the 2020 Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and the services we deliver to you every day. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water that meets all state and federal drinking water standards. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

If you have questions about this report, please contact Andy Lalashius, Water Supervisor, at (413) 967-9620 or dpwwater@townofware.com. The Ware DPW office hours are M-F 8:00am-4:00pm. More information about the water can be found on the town's website, www.townofware.com, in the DPW section. You can attend regularly scheduled town meetings for information, the dates of which are posted on the town's website.

Water Sources

The Town of Ware has six groundwater supplies at two sources. The Barnes Street source consists of four gravel-packed wells that discharge into a large diameter brick cistern dating from the 1890's that is also an active supply source (Mass-DEP source ID 1309000-01G, 02G, and 04G). Well No. 5 (MassDEP source ID 1309000-03G) consists of a single gravel-packed well located on Gilbertville Road. The Barnes Street wells are located in the central section of the distribution system along Muddy Brook and Well No. 5 is located near the northeastern border of Ware.

Water Treatment

Many drinking water sources in New England are naturally corrosive (i.e. they have a pH of less than 7.0). So, the water they supply has a tendency to corrode and dissolve the metal piping it flows through. This not only damages pipes but can also add harmful metals, such as lead and copper, to the water. For this reason it is beneficial to add chemicals that make the water neutral or slightly alkaline. The Ware Water Department adds Potassium Hydroxide to its water. This adjusts the water to a non-corrosive pH above 7.0. Testing throughout the water system has shown that this treatment has been effective at reducing lead and copper concentrations.

All reservoirs and some ground water sources contain numerous microorganisms, some of which can cause people to be sick. To eliminate disease carrying organisms it is necessary to disinfect the water. The Ware Water Department uses Sodium Hypochlorite (chlorine) as its disinfectant. The chlorine destroys harmful organisms by penetrating cell walls and reacting with its enzymes. Disinfection with chlorine has been proven effective at ensuring that water is free of harmful organisms and safe to drink.

Water Quality Monitoring

The Ware Water Department routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water in accordance with Federal and State laws. The following tables show the results of our monitoring. The water quality information presented in these tables are from the most recent round of testing in accordance with the regulations. All data shown was collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted in the tables.

As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Water Quality Terms

In the following results tables you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions.

90th Percentile: Out of every 20 homes, 18 were at or below this level. This number is compared to the action level to determine lead and copper compliance.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

Non-Detects (ND): Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG): This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water at or below which adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

ppb (parts per billion): or Micrograms per liter (ug/L) – one ppb corresponds to a single penny in \$10,000,000

ppm (parts per million): or Milligrams per liter (mg/L) – one ppm corresponds to a single penny in \$10,000

Running Annual Average (RAA): The average of four consecutive quarters of data.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Unregulated Contaminants: Unregulated contaminants are those for which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated monitoring is to assist EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Lead and Copper

	Date(s) Collected	90 th percentile	Action Level	MCLG	# of sites sampled	# of sites above Action Level	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	8/12/2020-8/17/2020	4.7	15	0	20	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	8/12/2020-8/17/2020	0.184	1.3	1.3	20	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

Inorganic Contaminants

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Highest Running Average Detected	Range Detected	MCL / MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Barium (ppm)	11/17/2020	0.028	0.023-0.033	2	2	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	11/17/2020	1.81	0.25-1.81	10	10	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (ppm)	11/17/2020	ND	ND	1	1	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Secondary Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Result or Range Detected	Average Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source
Iron (ppm)	5/15/2020	0.178-0.340	0.259	0.3	N/A	Naturally occurring, corrosion of cast iron pipes
Manganese* (ppm)	05/15/2020	0.136-0.376	0.256	0.05	Health Advisory of 0.3	Natural sources as well as discharges from industrial uses
Sulfate (ppm)	6/4/2019	7.6-10.9	9.25	250	N/A	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

* EPA has established a lifetime Health Advisory (HA) for manganese of 0.3 mg/L and an acute HA at 1.0 mg/L

Unregulated Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Result or Range Detected	Average Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source	
Sodium (ppm)	11/17/2020	17.1-35.8	26.5	N/A	20	Discharge from the use and improper storage of sodium-containing de-icing compounds or in water-softening agents	
Disinfectants	Date(s) Collected	Highest Quarterly Running Annual Average	Range	MCL	ORSG	Violation (Y/N)	
Chlorine, Free (ppm)	Monthly	0.48	0.33-0.63	4	4	N	Water additive used to control microbes

Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral found in rocks, soil, groundwater, and surface water. Manganese is necessary for proper nutrition and is part of a healthy diet, but can have undesirable effects on certain sensitive populations at elevated concentrations. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and MassDEP have set an aesthetics-based Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) for manganese of 50 ug/L (microgram per liter), or 50 parts per billion. In addition, MassDEP's Office of Research and Standards (ORS) has set a drinking water guideline for manganese (ORSG), which closely follows the EPA public health advisory for manganese. Drinking water may naturally have manganese and, when concentrations are greater than 50 ug/L, the water maybe discolored and taste bad. Over a lifetime, the EPA recommends that people limit their consumption of water with levels over 1000 ug/L, primarily due to concerns about the possible neurological effects. Children up to one year of age should not be given water with manganese concentrations over 300 ug/L, nor should formula for infants be made with that water for longer than 10 days. See: http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccl/pdfs/reg_determine1/support_cc1_magnese_dwreport.pdf.

What Does This All Mean?

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottle water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants – such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, wildlife, and pets.

Inorganic contaminants – such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.

Pesticides and herbicides – which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants – including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants – which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention

The Ware Water Department makes every effort to ensure that the water delivered to your home and business is clean, safe and free of contamination. Our staff works very hard to protect the quality of the water delivered to our customers from the time the water is extracted via deep wells from underground aquifers throughout the entire treatment and distribution system. But what happens when the water reaches your home or business? Is there still a need to protect the water quality from contamination caused by a crossconnection? If so, how?

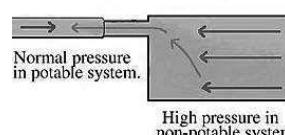
What is a cross-connection?

A cross-connection occurs whenever the drinking water supply is or could be in contact with potential sources of pollution or contamination. Cross-connections exist in piping arrangements or equipment that allows the drinking water to come in contact with non-potable liquids, solids, or gases (hazardous to humans) in event of a backflow.

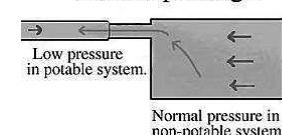
What is a backflow?

Backflow is the undesired reverse of the water flow in the drinking water distribution lines. This backward flow of water can occur when the pressure created by equipment or a system such as a boiler or air-conditioning is higher than the water pressure inside the water distribution line (back pressure), or when the pressure in the distribution line drops due to routine occurrences such as water main breaks or heavy water demand causing the water to flow backward inside the water distribution system (back siphonage). Backflow is a problem that many water consumers are unaware of, a problem that each and every water customer has a responsibility to help prevent.

Back Pressure:



Back Siphonage:



What can I do to help prevent a cross-connection?

Without the proper protection something as simple as a garden hose has the potential to contaminate or pollute the drinking water lines in your house. In fact over half of the country's cross-connection incidents involve unprotected garden hoses. There are very simple steps that you as a drinking water user can take to prevent such hazards, they are:

- NEVER submerge a hose in soapy water buckets, pet watering containers, pool, tubs, sinks, drains, or chemicals.
- NEVER attach a hose to a garden sprayer without the proper backflow preventer.
- Buy and install a hose bib vacuum breaker in any threaded water fixture. The installation can be as easy as attaching a garden hose to a spigot. This inexpensive device is available at most hardware stores and home-improvement centers.
- Identify and be aware of potential cross-connections to your water line.
- Buy appliances and equipment with backflow preventers.
- Buy and install backflow prevention devices or assemblies for all high and moderate hazard connections.

If you are the owner or manager of a property that is being used as a commercial, industrial, or institutional facility you must have your property's plumbing system surveyed for cross-connection by your water purveyor. If your property has NOT been surveyed for cross-connection, contact your water department to schedule a cross-connection survey.

Water Conservation

In an effort to conserve water and save money, here is a list of things you can do to help:

Indoor Water Use

Check for toilet leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the bowl within 15 minutes.

Inspect the overflow pipe in the toilet tank. The water level should be at least a half inch below the top of the pipe.

Repair dripping faucets and showerheads. A drip rate of one drop per second can waste more than 3000 gallons per year.

Limit the length of your showers to 5 minutes or less.

Stop running the water while you are shaving or brushing your teeth.

Don't use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods.</p

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INSTRUCTION

Quaboag Regional purchases air filters with a grant

WARREN/WEST BROOKFIELD – The Quaboag Regional School District was awarded \$6,000 from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association, the town's property and casualty insurance provider, to fund safety and risk management equipment. With the grant the district was able to purchase Merv-13 filters to enhance air quality in their schools and to improve the circulation to the required more than four exchanges of air move-

ments per hour so that students and staff could return to school during the COVID-19 pandemic. For the 2021 fiscal year, MIIA awarded \$1 million to fund nearly 200 grant requests from members for risk management activities and equipment. The Risk Management Grant Program provides MIIA members with the opportunity to apply for a grant or grants totaling \$10,000 per municipal entity. The MIIA Grant Program provides members with resources to assist

and support risk management initiatives.

"Our Risk Management Grants have always been a big draw and very helpful for our members – particularly because we can provide them with much needed tools and resources in areas where they need it most," said MIIA Executive Vice President Stan Corcoran. "In these particularly difficult times, we were pleased to expand the program to assist with communities' extremely important re-opening and COVID-

19 safety efforts."

MIIA is the nonprofit insurance arm of the Massachusetts Municipal Association. As a member-based organization, MIIA's sole focus is to provide excellent service and quality risk management and health insurance solutions to Massachusetts municipalities and related public entities. MIIA insures nearly 400 cities, towns, and other public entities in Massachusetts. For more information, visit www.miiia.org and www.mma.org.

Upriver Journey

VIRTUAL – Learn about the fascinating lives and epic migrations of American Shad and Sea Lamprey virtually with Firstlight's Northfield Mountain Education Coordinator, for this free presentation on the history and natural history of these unusual fish as this spring's upriver migration is underway. This online event is co-sponsored with the Northfield Bird Club.

These fish play an important role in our river ecosystems as they migrate to and from the sea. Author John McPhee nicknamed American Shad "Our Founding Fish." Sea Lamprey have been called "Hero of our rivers and vampire of the sea." Find out why

this keystone species is misunderstood and underappreciated. Join Kim Noyes, Firstlight's Northfield Mountain Education Coordinator, for this free presentation on the history and natural history of these unusual fish as this spring's upriver migration is underway. This online event is co-sponsored with the Northfield Bird Club.

To register, go to www.bookeo.com/northfield. Registration requests must be received at least 24 hours before program begins.

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